

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
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NSC:RPUTNAM
PM/DCA:MARIETTI(DRAFT)
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, UNGA

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: JAPANESE PROPOSAL ON PROCLAIMING AUGUST
6 DISARMAMENT DAY

REF: (A) USUN 2571 (B) USUN 2351 (C) STATE 142700
(D) STATE 112563

1. SUMMARY: ACTING ON WHAT HE TERMED "URGENT INSTRUCTIONS",
JAPANESE EMBASSY MINISTER/DCM KIYOSHI SUMIYA CALLED SEPAR-
ATELY ON ACDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR KEENEY JUNE 20 AND IO ASSIS-
TANT SECRETARY MAYNES JUNE 22, TO SEEK RECONSIDERATION
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OF US OBJECTION TO JAPANESE PROPOSAL TO HAVE LANGUAGE
INSERTED IN PROGRAM OF ACTION DECLARING AUGUST 6 DISARMA-
MENT DAY. SUMIYA STRESSED IMPORTANCE GOJ ATTACHES TO
THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH HE SAID HAD RECEIVED WIDESPREAD SUP-
PORT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AT SSOD. HE WAS TOLD THAT
WHILE USG BELIEVES PROPOSAL HAS MERIT, WE FIND THE DATE
OBJECTIONABLE. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT A DATE COMMEMORATING

PEACE, RATHER THAN WAR, MIGHT BE SELECTED, OR THAT AS A FALLBACK A FORMULA ALLOWING EACH STATE TO SELECT ITS OWN DATE ACCORDING TO ITS OWN HISTORY AND TRADITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MAIN OBJECTION TO AUGUST 6, AS EXPLAINED TO SUMIYA, IS THAT ITS SELECTION COULD BE PORTRAYED BY UNFRIENDLY STATES AS IMPLICIT CONDEMNATION OF THE US AND WOULD PROVIDE THEM AN ANNUAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLIT THE OB-SERVANCE FOR HOSTILE PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. IF THERE IS TO BE A DAY DEDICATED TO DISARMAMENT, IT SHOULD NOT BE BURDENED WITH SUCH POLITICAL OVERTONES. ADDITIONALLY, WHILE ARMS CONTROL INVOLVES MORE THAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SELECTION OF AUGUST 6 WOULD SUGGEST AN EXCLUSIVELY NUCLEAR FOCUS. THERE IS ALSO THE CONSIDERATION THAT AUGUST 6 RELATED TO AN ACT OF WAR.

3. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO SUMIYA THAT ANOTHER DATE BE CONSIDERED, SUCH AS UN DAY OR THE DATES OF THE OPENING OR CLOSING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO MARCH 5, THE DATE ON WHICH THE NON-PROLIFER-ATION TREATY WENT INTO EFFECT (IN 1970) OR THE DATE ON WHICH THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY IS SIGNED. EITHER OF LATTER TWO DATES WOULD COMMEMORATE ACTS OF PEACE, RATHER THAN WAR, AND SELECTION OF FUTURE DATE OF TEST BAN TEATY MIGHT HAVE THE ADDED FAVORABLE ASPECT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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STEPPING UP PRESSURE FOR SIGNING AND BRINGING MEASURE MORE TO PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS.

4. SUMIYA SAID HE WAS UNDER "URGENT INSTRCTIONS" TO REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT, AND ASKED IF THESE "COUNTER-PROPOSALS" HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO OTHER GOVERN-MENTS. HE WAS ADVISED THAT "SUGGESTIONS," WHICH AT THIS PHASE WE HESITATE TO CHARACTERIZE AS "COUNTERPROPOSALS," HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS BUT THAT OUR DELEGATION AT NEW YORK WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO, WITH THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL THAT EACH STATE SELECT ITS OWN DATE ACCORDING TO ITS HISTORY, CULTURE AND TRADI-TIONS.

5. SUMIYA SHOWED NO INTEREST IN ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS AND ECHOED COMMENT OF AMBASSADOR OGISO TO AMBASSADOR FISHER IN NEW YORK (REF A) THAT FONMIN SONODA'S STIPULATION OF AUGUST 6 IN HIS SSOD SPEECH WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR JAPANESE TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE WHICH DID NOT MENTION THAT DATE.

6. WHEN HE ASKED WHETHER US POSITION SUGGESTED ADOPTION

OF AUGUST 6 DATE WOULD HURT US-JAPANESE RELATIONS, SUMIYA WAS ADVISED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE IMPORT BUT THAT THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AND RESENTED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

3. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO FIND SINGLING OUT AUGUST 6, IN PROGRAM OF ACTION LANGUAGE ESTABLISHING A DISARMAMENT DAY, TO BE OBJECTIONABLE, EVEN IN CONTEXT OF A FORMULA PERMITTING INDIVIDUAL STATES TO HOLD OBSERVANCES AT AN-OTHER TIME (AS SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR OGISO AND REPORTED REF A). DELEGATION SHOULD SO INFORM JAPANESE DELEGATION AND URGE THAT THEY GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ALTERNATIVES DESCRIBED ABOVE. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES AS WELL. BUT WE BELIEVE
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THAT THE FAIREST APPROACH WOULD BE IF A FORMULA WERE CHOSEN ALLOWING EACH STATE TO SELECT ITS OWN DATE, WITHOUT ANY MENTION OF A PREFERRED OR SUGGESTED DATE. JAPAN'S CHOICE OF DATE FOR ITS OWN OBSERVANCES WOULD BE A PURELY DOMESTIC MATTER. VANCE

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